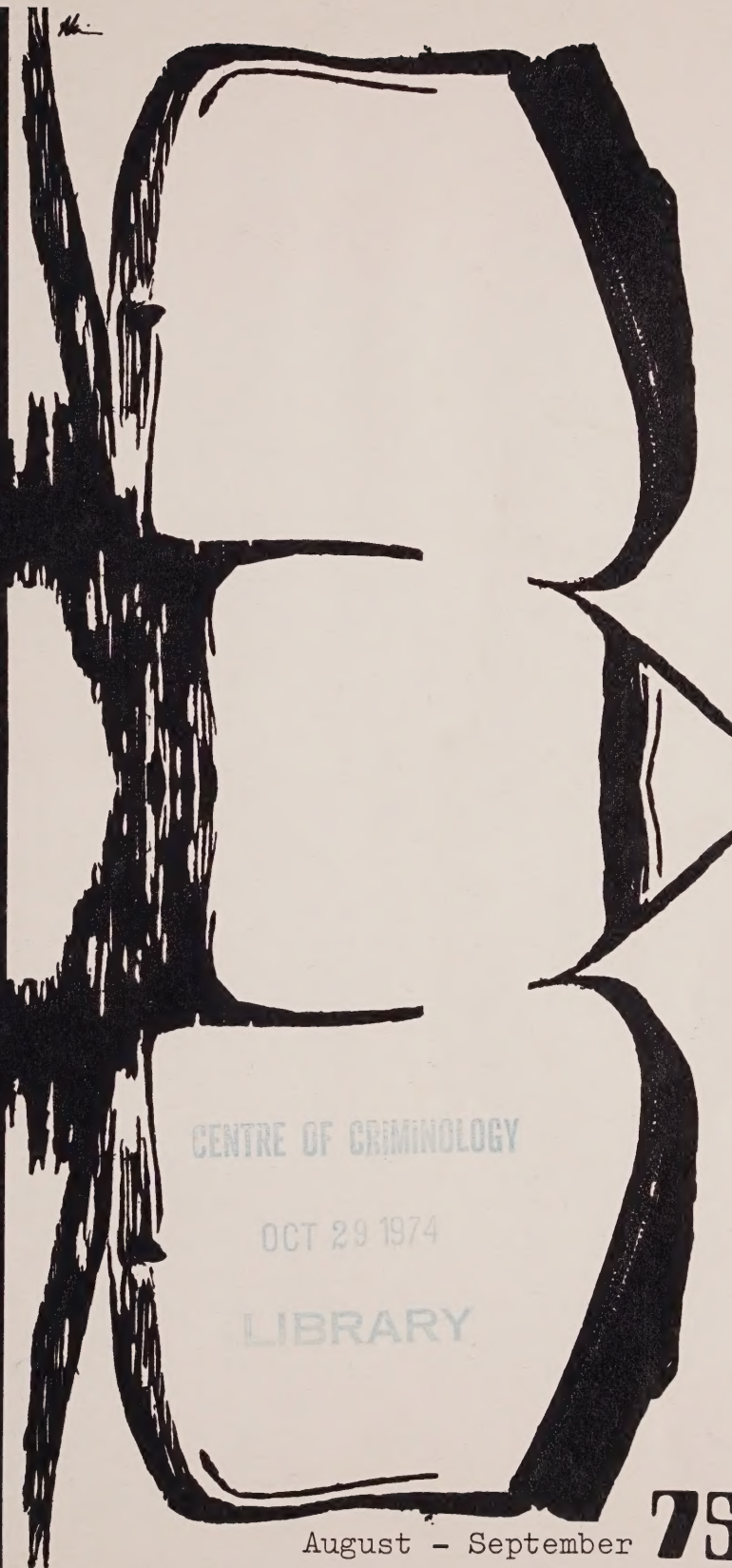


V. 2, no. 5, 1974



**CRIMINOLOGY**

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# NOTES & OTHER CLUTTER

We are exceptionally pleased to be able to add two new names to our masthead this month, both of whom were First Prize winners in this year's Prison Art Foundation Competition for inmates.

Les Grant, a long-time Transition contributor, now released, will be continuing to write material for the magazine, as well as from time to time involving himself in other Transition Society activities in British Columbia. Les shared the Prison Art First Prize for Prose this year.

E.J. (Tommie) Kubara, still residing in Stony Mountain Prison but finally very short, will be working with us on major graphics things. Tommie, who this year won Prison Art First Prize for Painting is already at work on his first major assignments for the magazine, a new front cover and two inside covers.

--O--

The community-based non-commercial FM Radio station, Vancouver Cooperative Radio, has some programming in the works which deals with the "politically dangerous" aspects of prisons, such as discussions of the parole system and the trade union movement. Plans are under discussion to have Matsqui inmates participate in developing some radio programming. Commercial stations and interested groups can probably make arrangements to obtain tapes by contacting the station at 323 Carrall Street, Vancouver, B.C.

## Letters

Dear Editor:

Your paper the Transition arrived on July 22/74 and was a great morale booster.

The issue I received was the March-April one; the articles on the psychiatric prisons Allmand wants to build, I found interesting even more so than many others would, because as one person stated (McKinnon) they could very easily be used to oppress any prisoner who is outspoken or who tries to work for prison change while in prison.

The article on "Organizing a Prisoner's Trade Union" was the article I enjoyed the most and will you send a full set of the articles which you mentioned in your paper.

The copy of Transition I have is being circulated to some of the people in the general population. Some of the people in the segregation area have read it and more are waiting for it to come back.

I don't know just how aware you are about what has been happening here at Millhaven, but I suppose you heard about what went down here in March of this year? Since then the prison has remained pretty much a real mess, with about a third of the prisoners still in some form of lock-up. In June there was a sit-in out in the main prison yard which lasted several hours. What was being protested was the attacking of a prisoner by several guards that same day. About 75% of the people are still doing thirty-day sentences in solitary and others are on a waiting list as the cells in solitary have been full for months now. Myself, I arrived



back in the segregation cells last Sunday, the 21st, for being involved in the sit-in. One guard tried to murder a couple of us by rifle fire but blew it as his marksmanship was terrible, fortunately for us!

We know that protest of this nature is not too good as the same people get grabbed every time for instigating and are locked up for months. We are doing our best to change this by getting more people involved from the outside and also through legal action. Right now we have several lawyers working on our behalf and are also just starting to get a few people behind us. We expect it will be some time though before we have anything to show for our effort.

You can use any part of this letter you want, and also my name. Say hello to the people in Dorchester for us and anyone else involved in the struggle. Maintain ....

Robert Landers  
Millhaven



Dear Editor:

In your July issue, the article "There's No Place Like Home: Millhaven As Paradise", to put it mildly, stinks almost as bad as the Vietnamese P.O.W. camps the author is trying to impress upon us! We wonder why the fuck he is (who the hell is he anyhow?) comparing the Canadian Penal System to South Vietnamese P.O.W. camps --- it's almost like comparing Tricky Dickie to the Pope, and some people would even argue that analogy. The author comes across like a "draft-dodger" or deserter. If he wanted to write an article about Millhaven and its "Paradise-like Living", why didn't he compare it to other Canadian pens?

Can it be that our friend has no idea what the other joints are like, not to mention Millhaven? It is safe to say that we do! Between the two of us we can open a travel agency of pens, describing each in fairly accurate detail. Although we're not proud of the fact, we've been to British Columbia Penitentiary, Kingston Pen, St. Vincent de Paul Penitentiary, MILLHAVEN, Archambault, Dorchester, Cowansville Federal Training Centre (Que.), and Collins Bay Pen. The last three medium security types, the other six, maximum security, of which Millhaven is the asshole of them all! By that we mean all the shit gathers there --- and we certainly do not mean the inmates! Come to think of it, the only nice thing about the joint is the "solid cons" forced to suffer there.

We were there for both "uprisings", February '73 and March '74, and having read many articles on P.O.W. camps in North and South Vietnam, many written by G.I.'s who lived thru it, we've yet to see where they've suffered tear gas daily, if not more often, and beatings with three-foot "piggy sticks" in the hands of ten to twelve civilized, humane members of the goon squad, to say nothing of the psychological damage, all in the name of rehabilitation. Is this Paradise?

If the author was trying to point out how bad Millhaven was, and still is, and how fruitless the so-called investigation will be, why didn't he come right out and say so in detail instead of diverting the readers attention to South Vietnam? The problem is in Bath, Ontario!

The bulk of his article is a letter which is in no way related to the Canadian Penal System nor to the problems our families have to face. If we sound a little bitter it's because we are disappointed that he resorted to this tactic. Would not a better way of bringing the Millhaven problem, and thru that, the entire system, to the Canadian



public be a campaign, or a flow of letters to the Solicitor General, with copies to the media of course, demanding a change in our penal system? There are 10,000 of us that will pay the fucking postage --- we can afford it now what with our dime-a-day raise effective Sept. 1st we are into the three figure bracket now folks --- a buck a day!

In closing, may we appeal to "Transition" to consider the undertaking of such a campaign. It won't hurt, believe us!

Keep up the good work, fellas!

Yours in the Struggle,

Jamie Jamieson

Larry Buttle,

Collins Bay.



Dear Editor:

Re: May-June Transition

Do you really feel that referring to prison guards as "bulls" and police generally as "pigs" is conducive to developing the spirit of cooperation that will be necessary to change the "system"?

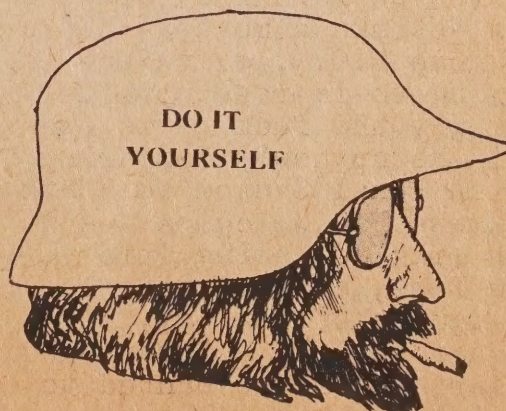
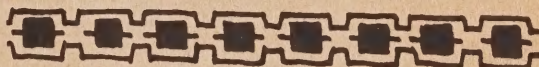
I don't really think so. Certainly there have to be some bad guards --- just as there have to be some bad prisoners --- and just as there have to be some bad street people. If the Prisoners' Trade Union should become a reality it could, through continuing constructive pressure bring about changes that prisoners feel are warranted. If the administration of the Union is effective, it could prevent another Mervin Johnson situation. If someone had listened (the fellow prisoners obviously didn't either), he could have been relocated.

The letter from Larry Harvey of Dorchester is thought-provoking. For some people long-term incarceration certainly is not the answer if rehabilitation is the ultimate

goal. However, are there enough cases of released prisoners committing another multiple murder, to warrant caution in releasing all prisoners? Would a locally-administered union of prisoners like to be involved in assuming some of the responsibility for releasing a potentially dangerous person? We are all potentially dangerous --- street people or ex-prisoners --- one never knows what reaction will be triggered by a given situation. As with war --- is prison pre-conditioning us for a role that society will not tolerate except in war situations? What retribution would or could a prisoners' trade union exact when a prisoner whose release they recommended is guilty of another major crime? The warden who recommended it could (and probably would be forced to) resign. Just something to think about.

Also found "Les Ateliers Dominiques" a constructive article. It is so different from the generally strident, screaming tone of many of the articles. Maybe your short-fused bomb on Page 39 is the only answer --- but I hope not.

H.P. Mengerling  
Rhein, Sask.





# EDITORIAL

by

ART MONTAGUE

No fiercer indictment of Millhaven and the rest of the Canadian Penitentiary Service will be found outside this month's Letters column, unless one looks at our letters file, the letters from cons which we have been unable to print because of space limitations.

Every inmate in every institution in the country is being victimized and brutalized by the atrocities being delivered up by guards to Millhaven inmates --- every inmate is being victimized because if the guards in the Mill' can get away with it, and they bloody well seem to be, the guards in every prison in the country can get away with it.

Cons who figure they're untouchable because "I never get into hassles" or because "I'm too slick for them", or because "this never happens to me", might try this: of fifteen ranges in Millhaven, nine are used for isolation and lock-up --- and there is a waiting list for the hole!

As for the much-lauded investigating committee which went into Millhaven, there is this report from an inmate to consider:

"Now, about "that investigating committee", that had to be the biggest fucking farce I have ever attended. What they did was interview two prisoners off of each range. Since there are 15 ranges, that is thirty prisoners plus two or three prisoners from the hole, including one little guy the pigs punched out. The Committee also interviewed many of the guards, keepers, and so on.

"Even before they (the Committee) arrived here, I and many others felt it would be a farce, and the closer the day came the more people took this viewpoint. The reason for this was, that for several days and until they arrived, we kept hearing over the radio things like M.P. So-and-so thinks there is a struggle between a group of prisoners and a group of guards for control of the prison, or M.P. So-and-so thinks overcrowding is the main factor in the Millhaven disturbance. So,

even before they had seen the prison each person had their own pet theory as to what was wrong with Millhaven, and I mean every one of the M.P.'s and the Senator. When they did interview people, each was just looking for material to back up his pet theory.

"I was one of the two prisoners voted to represent one of the segregation ranges, as many of the atrocities occurred in the area I was in. I wrote a paper giving sixteen incidents, which I was positive of, that occurred, as I had witnessed them and at the end of the paper I requested a lie detector and/or an amytol test to prove that what I said was the truth.

"Anyway, the final result was that Ottawa spent \$154,000 to put some thin screen and a bit of plaster on one cell wall in every cell. The prison shop instructors put up a half dozen extra barriers in each unit and a new segregation ... is due to be opened this month. And that is what was accomplished by the M.P.'s Committee. There were also a few guards put on perimeter posts and a couple shipped to medium security prisons."

Anyone familiar with government inquiry teams going into our penitentiaries knows that only one of two things happens: the team either recommends sweeping changes ---these are always ignored by the



government and the Canadian Penitentiary Service --- or the team does a whitewash which includes a few ludicrous recommendations, all of which seem to be carried out. (A third type of team tends to recommend things which are already being implemented).

The traditional way for cons to change the prisons they're in is to destroy the place in a riot. (Note: Dorchester, St. Vincent's, New Westminster, Kingston, all at some point in their histories being partially gutted by fires, etc.) This can get people killed or hurt, it can get more time for some, and it seems always to get tighter, more secure and inhumane prisons built.

However, there may be other ways for cons to change the prisons they're in.

For example, there is a long term method: convicts organizing. But this takes time and though it sounds weird, time is the one thing cons do not have right now. Hell, the brutalities are happening right now. The pain is being felt right now. And tomorrow's anguish is festering in the prisons today.

We need immediate action; we need some immediate pressure on government and its bureaucracies, and the public, all of which presently legitimate the brutalities in the prisons by their indifference to them.

Two inmates suggest that all cons write the Solicitor General and various politicians. We ask this: how many cons voted in the last federal election? How many votes will M.P.'s lose if they ignore the pleas and/or demands of 10,000 cons? Zero ...no more, nothing.

But there isn't a con in the country who can't afford an 8¢ stamp. They should get off their collective ass and use them. Write letters, but don't send the first ones to M.P.'s or bureaucrats.

Send your letters to civil liberties and human rights organizations. Demand to know why they haven't taken the lead in fighting for prisoner's rights. Demand to know why they haven't taken the lead in protecting inmates from brutalities and other violations inflicted by prison staff members. But don't just demand knowledge, DEMAND ACTION!!

Below are listed the names and addresses of nearly two dozen civil liberties and human rights organizations in Canada. Each is made up of citizens and all of these citizens can vote. Get these people to write their M.P.'s. Get their lawyers to carry the con's fight into the courtrooms. Have them make your fight their fight!

You can also send similar letters to people with whom you correspond regularly: your relatives, your friends, your former employers, anyone who can be persuaded to write their M.P.'s. A few letters of protest by a few eligible voters carry a lot more weight than 10,000 letters of protest from people who are not permitted to vote.

The first thing you might demand, though immediately not the most important, is the right to vote in federal and provincial elections. If mental patients are now allowed to vote, so too should prisoners in other institutions.

If cons want changes they must make the prison conditions a public issue. They must make the politicians realize that they'll lose votes if they don't put the spurs to the civil servants and get them moving at improving conditions.

If cons can't be bothered writing letters or they don't feel they can do so effectively, we would welcome having them send us the names and addresses of anyone to whom they'd like to write about this, and we shall send these people copies of this issue



6.

along with the con's name. We have over-printed this issue so that we have lots of extras to send out.

This is the first time Transition magazine has stepped out publicly to do more than merely publish accounts of the bullshit going down as corrections in our prisons.

Furthermore, any inmates who want lawyers for rights things, either collective or individual, should drop us a line and we'll put them in touch with lawyers in their areas.

By the way, cons, who may believe in the good intentions of M.P.'s and their ilk and who at the same time would like to reiterate to them what we are now saying and have been saying in these pages for nearly two years, should look at the message from M.P.'s implicit in the fact that for over a year we have mailed a copy of every issue of the magazine to every M.P. and not one of them has parted with the six-dollar subscription price which would send two free copies per issue to inmates. (This isn't a plug for a few subscriptions, incidentally, only a comment on the state of the elected (the M.P.s) in relation to the state of the non-electors (us).

We've all had our periods of whining, snivelling, and dreaming of should-have-been's and should-be's. Let's get it together and, dammit, let's get it done ... NOW.

\*\*\*\*\*

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Following is an article written by N. Bruce McLeod, an official of the United Church of Canada, which was originally published in the August, 1974, edition of the United Church of Canada's official news-magazine.

The time between when the article was brought to our attention and our own press time was insufficient to secure Mr. McLeod's permission to reprint, however, we do not feel it is out of line to print the article here because it very much echoes what inmates have been saying not only about Millhaven Penitentiary but every penitentiary in the country.

# PRISONS

by N. Bruce McLeod

One day in June, when most of us were being ministered to by the renewal of the earth and the gentleness of the spring air, I visited the federal maximum security prison at Millhaven, Ontario.

I talked to a man in what the administration calls the Environmental Control Area. Inmates refer to it as The Hole. It was a prison within the prison. He was spending 30 days in a windowless cell about ten feet long, and furnished with a board bed and seatless toilet. I spoke to him through a slot.

Nor was solitary caging his only punishment. He was being made to feel hunger. For breakfast he had coffee and some milk. For lunch, soup and some bread. For dinner, a piece of meat. ("How can you justify this use of diet as discipline," I asked the director of the prison later. "I don't have to justify it," he replied.

I wondered what attitudes such an experience would build into the man in the cell, and the men who kept him there like an animal. No, not like an animal. Zoos would not tolerate such cages. ("If we are going to be treated like animals," said one inmate, "we would like the rights of animals, and the protection of the S.P.C.A.")

I remembered people talking about the walls coming in on them, and wondered how they would survive such an ordeal. I saw scrawled on the walls of empty cells in The Hole numbers from one to 30 with shaky lines stroked through each one.

There are 168 guards at Millhaven and 300 prisoners. The armorer told me that .303 bolt action rifles had been replaced by Remington .308's which by filing certain parts could be changed from semi-automatic to automatic weapons which would empty a magazine with one squeeze of the trigger. Guards must have Grade X education, and preferably a military background.

In May, a large group of inmates refused to come in from the exercise field. The Director resisted pressure from the guards to go out after them and simply announced that they could stay in the field all night if they did not come in by a certain hour, and one at a time. They came.

In any Canadian prison it is always noticeable how most of the long-term inmates come from the lowest income level of Canadian society. Is it because that's where the offenders are, or because there is one law for the rich and one law for the poor?



A boy hung himself in Toronto's Don Jail this Year. He had stolen \$10. If he had stolen \$10,000 without breaking and entering or violence he probably would not have been in jail at all.

Prisons reflect strange priorities in Canadian life. I met one man serving seven years for manslaughter and another with 39 years for attempted robbery of a bank.

There will always be people who for their own protection and ours need to be kept separate from society. But there are others who need to learn to live constructively with us, and we with them. Suggestions have been made of supervised work and restitution of damages. The 1971 Mohr Report urged the replacement of big prisons with smaller centres which would be tied into existing community rehabilitation resources.

But we have a big investment in expensive American-designed prisons. It would cost 18 million dollars to replace Millhaven and there are eight maximum security institutions across the land. People's livelihood depends on them. (We're their living," said one inmate.) We need prisoners in them to justify their existence. In the year following September 1972, paroles dropped dramatically and we jailed about 15% more per month than the year previous.

"What does a term here do to a man?" I asked in the director's office. "We hope his attitudes change," said someone. "No," said the director, "I just hope they're no worse when they leave than when they come in." One inmate said, "In spite of what they do, I'm going to make it."

It costs about \$13,000 a year to keep a man imprisoned in Millhaven. What are we getting for that money? What are we doing to that man? What are we doing to ourselves?

# HACKSAW



## EVERYWHERE

In this day of vigorous anti-shoplifting campaigns in the media of different cities across the country, campaigns which rely heavily on scare tactics, we find ourselves somewhat puzzled. From the Ottawa Journal we have this in a prominent ad: "the best jobs and a chance for a college education can be put out of your reach by one small act of shoplifting." Too bad for boosters is all we can say, because we know former bank robbers, burglars and bad cheque writers, among others, who have no trouble at all getting the "best jobs" and "college education". Actually, the scare campaigns are pretty nauseating because not a peep is said about employees who pilfer and statistics indicate employees loot retail shops for more every year than boosters. Local Boards of Trade should give their heads a shake.

--//--



TORONTO

Just after George Kerr, Ontario's Solicitor General, told the annual conference of the Ontario Association of Police Chiefs that police should improve their relations with youth, his 18-year old son was busted for possession of marijuana. 'Nuff said ....

--//--

SASKATOON

Tommie Fraser, alias David Earl Williams, a long-time Transition supporter and contributor and former late night disc jockey for night owl cons in P.A. on CFQC-AM from Saskatoon, recently married former Transition staffer Linda Gelowitz and moved to Ile la Crosse a hamlet in northern Saskatchewan. Linda found a job up there and Tommie found his head. Good Growth to Both!

--//--

EVERYWHERE

If the Gay Liberation Movement was all that committed to getting public tolerance for its Movers, it would start doing something to break down the public's notion that everyone in prisons is queer and that all cons under twenty-three are strong-armed into taking it in the ass whether they want it or not.

PRINCE ALBERT

Around the same time a man in Ontario got two years less a day for manslaughter, a local parolee picked up 18 months for killing a cow. If you think this is out of line, the original sentence of the cow killer, before Appeal Court knocked it down, was five years. Would it be a surprise if a local legal light owned the cow?

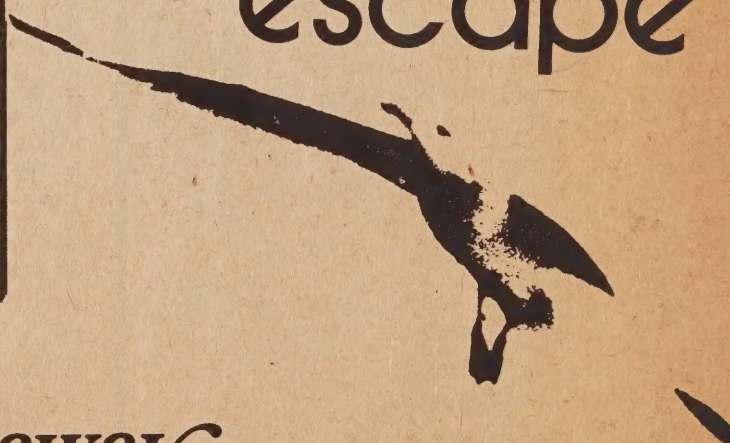
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SASKATOON

Ex-cons who are perturbed about the easy access credit bureaus and the ilk have to a guy's record might be pleased to hear that Transition has a very fat file on policemen in Canada who have violated the good old Criminal Code. Someday we might compile the sentencing outcomes in the cases we have material on. No con would be shocked by it, although some street people might be.

--//--

# escape



*Join us.....*

*fly away.....*

*escape.....*

Soaring on the wings of  
beautiful music.

Enjoy this new musical approach . . .

Won't you join us today . . .





A  
CHILDREN'S  
GARDEN  
OF  
CRIME

by  
ROBBIE  
GREEN





MAN, the crook



MAN, the caught









MAN, the canned



# OUTERBRIDGE

## On criminal justice **PART 2**

William R. Outerbridge was recently appointed Chairman of the National Parole Board. Shortly after his appointment, Mr. Outerbridge told us he would expect to be held to the correctional philosophy and programs he has publicly advocated in the past.

In 1973 Mr. Outerbridge delivered the keynote address at the Canadian Corrections and Criminology Congress in Regina. He has given us permission to reprint his address in full in order that inmates can get a better idea of what we can expect from the National Parole Service as it is influenced by its new Chairman.

Because of its length, the address will be printed in three consecutive instalments, the second here.

### Treatment

It is time we took a long and realistic look at what is actually happening to the people we convict and punish under our present system of criminal justice. Behind the confusion and controversy which serve to obscure it, what is penal discipline, what does it accomplish, how is it achieved and, most important, how does this reality fit in with the concept of a unified, viable, and constructive system of criminal justice?

First of all, it is essential to realize that, as it exists now, "penal discipline", or "corrections", whatever term you may prefer, is based on the conviction that its primary function is rehabilitation of the offender rather than revenge or restraint. This assumption has gained favour in the past 25 years due, in part, to the growing influence of the behavioural sciences in the field of applied criminology.

Today we almost take this over-riding concern for rehabilitation for granted. In our annual reports, statements of purpose, in the evidence that we give before judicial committees, in lectures and articles we insist that it is the raison d'etre of the penal establishment. We assume that, finally, the only way that society can really be protected is through the rehabilitation of the offender. The term "corrections" has replaced penology: "treatment" has replaced penal discipline in our rhetoric. Even in the courts, the terminology of the behavioural sciences is being used more and more often to justify the imposition of sentences of incarceration. In this way, we have conditioned ourselves to higher expectations; at the same time, we have created a climate of expectancy among the general public.



Yet, somehow, somewhere along the line, we have failed to separate what we wish to do, from what we can do; our intent from its consequence. Despite our stated goals for re-education, we continue to incarcerate offenders under conditions which fly in the very face of all we know about principles of education. We do this and expect that re-education will somehow still take place.

ITEM: We know that learning is most likely to take place in an environment in which the educational program is related to the state of knowledge of the student and to his perceived needs. Despite this we continue to place inmates in a milieu in which, by and large, they all receive the same kind of treatment.

ITEM: We attempt to accomplish this learning in an environment which strips the inmate of the quality most closely associated with adulthood --- namely the ability to choose. On the one hand, we render the inmate a virtual child and yet somehow expect him to develop greater maturity and better judgment.

Furthermore, most contemporary "correctional programs" seek to change offenders by imposing solutions on them. In so doing, they miss a crucial determinant of human behaviour: one can impose solutions if one's object is to punish or to contain behaviour but not if one's object is to change it. The root problem lies in the non-reciprocal nature of most correctional programs and the inevitable resistance of most individuals to organized efforts, however well-intentioned, on their behalf.

ITEM: The most important factor in the process of re-education is program content. What are inmates being taught? Whatever we may say about the manifest purposes of prison, what are the latent messages conveyed by the correctional programs within our penal institutions? In order to come closer to this we need to back off for a moment and look at what the offender is "saying" when he commits an offence, and then at what we "say" to him as a consequence of his conviction and incarceration. (In attempting this judgment I have relied heavily on the work of Dr. Richard Korn for the following illustrations)

When a person commits a criminal offence against another he becomes "the enemy within". From society's point of view he masquerades as one of "us" and chooses a time of his convenience to become the traitor and to work his depredation on his victim. Through the use of force, the threat of force, or the completely unpredictable timing and nature of his act, he renders his victim powerless to respond. The encounter between offender and victim, either actually or symbolically, places the victim in a power vacuum subject to manipulation by an authority he cannot influence. The effect on the victim is one of fear if the crime is against his person, or of frustration and rage even if it is not. The rage stems not only from the crime itself but, in large part, from the sense of emasculation which this state of powerlessness evokes. Part of the victim's urge to retaliate stems from his desire to redress the imbalance flowing from this attack on his sense of identity.

In addition to the effect upon the victim, the crime has certain broader social consequences as well. The behaviour of the offender strikes at the very heart of the values which govern our social order --- the ability of a citizen to trust his fellow citizens and to anticipate that the social intercourse between them will be governed by predictable rules of human relations. To threaten this sense of trust is to turn every stranger into a potential enemy.



The response of the victim and of the institutions of society which represent him has always been immediate and violent: the apprehended and convicted offender is summarily ejected from society. Death, banishment and, during the last 150 years, imprisonment, have been the three traditional methods used to "cast out the offender from our midst". However, we may choose to rationalize our actions in terms of social hygiene, as has been the practice during the last half century, official response to the offender has actually been based partly on revenge. From the offender's point of view it still is!

Upon conviction, offenders are placed in "total institutions" characterized by the concentration of power in the hands of the keeper and the almost complete absence of formal power among the kept. Whatever value this may have in maintaining control, it is a model of human influence essentially identical to that employed by the offender when he commits his offence. Not only is this milieu incompatible with the kind of learning necessary for the assumption of responsible behaviour in the community, it creates a response to power similar to that of the offender's victim. By being placed in a situation which attacks the very basis of his identity as an adult --- a situation of enforced dependency on the non-negotiable authority of others --- the offender is left with only three possible avenues of redress. One, he can accept the new definition of himself as dependant and behave accordingly; two, he can try to find ways of manipulating those with power; or, three, he can give vent to his sense of rage and strike out in violence. Each of these has different consequences, but they share one characteristic. Not one of the three creates a milieu compatible with what is usually implied by rehabilitation! The offender **can** avoid looking at his responsibility for his actions and come to see himself as a victim of a power over which he has little or no control --- a situation not dissimilar in a psychological sense to that of his victim. If he does not accept the definition, and few do, his preoccupation becomes one of seeking ways to retaliate, thus increasing the wall of mistrust and tension between keeper and kept which, in the final analysis, tends to brutalize both.

The fallacy inherent in modern penological methods was portrayed eloquently, if wryly, by George Bernard Shaw:

"Now, if you are to punish a man retributively, you must injure him. If you are to reform him, you must improve him. And men are not improved by injuries. To propose to punish and reform by the same operation, is exactly as if you were to take a man suffering from pneumonia and attempt to combine punitive and curative treatment. Arguing that a man with pneumonia is a danger to the community and that he needs not catch it if he takes proper care of his health, you resolve that he shall have a severe lesson, both to punish him for his negligence and his pulmonary weakness, and to deter others from following his example. You therefore strip him naked and in that condition, stand him all night in the snow. But as you admit the duty of restoring him to health if possible and discharging him with sound lungs, you engage a doctor to superintend the punishment and administer cough lozenges made as unpleasant to the taste as possible so as not to pamper the culprit. A board of commissioners ordering such treatment would prove thereby



either that they were imbeciles or else that they  
were hotly in earnest about punishing the patient  
and not in the least in earnest about curing him."

(W.O.'s italics)

This, in brief, is what incarceration accomplishes for the kept. Let us shift our perspective and consider the impact of the same institution upon the keeper --- the person upon whom the onus of re-education has been placed.

The public has given over to the professional corrections expert two responsibilities. The first is to keep the inmate within the walls for the duration of the warrant of committal, a function which he has performed with relative success, recent reaction from the public media notwithstanding. The second responsibility has been to create a law-abiding citizen out of an offender --- a feat the expert has been manifestly unable to perform. The fact that this expectation is totally unreasonable, given the system within which this transformation is expected to take place, means that both the keeper and the inmate become the victims of public expectation. To be held responsible for changes which one cannot reasonably achieve adds immeasurably to the tensions which already exist in penal institutions. The public has come to expect the prison system to provide a guarantee of lifetime immunity against further criminal activity: when it doesn't it is branded as "failure"! In the face of this kind of unreasonable expectation the disillusionment of the correctional administrator becomes total and complete.

Thus, we face a situation where disillusionment is one of the major characteristics affecting the morale of both the inmate and the correctional administrator. It has been suggested that the hypocrisy created by this double expectation is at the root of much of the tension characteristic of penal institutions today. It has been suggested that the time is ripe to move away from the hypocrisy created by the expectation of rehabilitation and to limit ourselves to the provision of humane but secure warehouses for that minority of offenders whose behaviour represents a continuing propensity for violent and/or predatory conduct. These warehouses would be based on the recognition that, at least in part, incarceration is a reflection of society's need to retaliate for the threat created by the offender's criminal act.

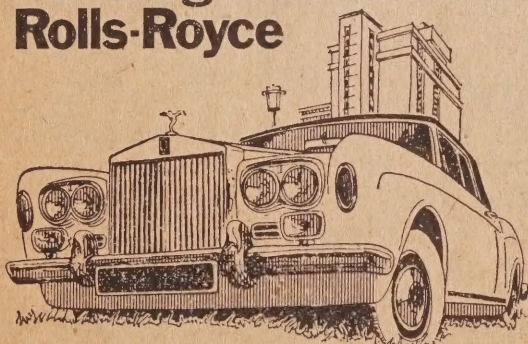




I have concentrated on the illogic of prisons as places of rehabilitation because they illustrate most clearly the dilemma inherent in penological programs which are expected to achieve control and rehabilitation simultaneously. Nevertheless, it must be obvious that non-institutional programs like probation and parole differ only in degree, not in kind. They suffer from the same basic incompatibility of goals. They, too, are based essentially on the non-negotiable power of one person over another. Yet they do have a number of advantages over an institutional setting: surveillance takes place in a more natural environment where the probationer or parolee is not constantly reminded of his dependent status; the conditional nature of his status in the community is manifest and contingent upon his behaviour rather than on institutional demands for uniformity. However, the more institutionalized the policies of probation and parole become the more difficulty is encountered in responding quickly to demonstrated changes in behaviour, and the more these programs take on the rigidity of prisons and evoke the resentment which defeats their rehabilitative purpose. One thing is sure: unless we choose to enforce conformity by treatment methods which invoke the surgeon's knife, or of prosthetic devices or hormonal implants --- and we do possess the technology to accomplish this today --- we must find models which involve the offender as an active participant in the process. We must either break his will, or engage and strengthen it!

NEXT MONTH: Crime and the Community  
Part Three

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# SLOW GEORGE

In this place happiness is the orgasm you've not yet had. So goes the wisdom this month. It flits like time, like mosquitoes, like kids who don't know they'll never have it so good.

Recall, insatiable reader, that I just spent a wee spot of time in the hole. After that I figured it would be back to the same old blissful boredom for me. "Live it out, Slow George," I says to myself. "Sneer and smile, play your bridge, listen to CBC on your phones, make bets on the CFL Gladiators." But what do I find when I get back to population? I'll tell you, and all you other old jaspers better register this in your sconces. I tumbled to my kid eating somebody else's chonys now!

He don't sneak around either. The little bugger, figmentally speaking, actually sits with the grinder at the Saturday flicks. Public dishonor is heaped upon me! Disgrace, defilement, derision, and dishonor are now my evermore ever lot in life, as if having the lowest number in the joint didn't mean shit ... or, now that I think of it, maybe it does, but whoever'd think that'd work here, not live here, except that freckly long-haired snake of a kid.

He still has my petitpoint hanging in his house. He's got my guitar too. OK, actually I just kept the petitpoint and the guitar to dazzle the kids anyway, but everybody else does too, so why should I get whizzed.

I guess I shoulda seen it coming. All the flags were flying. From the way the kid is grinning these days, they weren't at half-mast either. The first sign was that I didn't get no kites from him when I was in the hole. I hadn't been too surprised,

because without me to show him the ropes and lead him along he woulda been lost: he wouldna been able to find a contact, like one of the barbers to bring a kite in. I had to show him how to do everything else since the first day he came into the joint. The bulls sure don't; they just throw the kids in, they don't show them how to survive. It's us old guys who've done more bits than I've got unsold Slow George Dayglo T-shirts who keep the kids alive and healthy until they too know the ropes.

That kid of mine, that damn kid, I paid his gambling debts for the first six months he was here. Just because he lost his weed in my poker games has nothing to do with it. Neither does it matter if I got a piece of the joint book. The principle is that I paid his debts. Doesn't matter a damn if he owed them to me in the first place. His new old man won't pay his gambling debts. I'll make sure he has too many of his own to worry about. Not that I'm vindictive, mind you, I just don't like grinders and I got more lore than the kid's new paramour anyway because I'm intelligent, perceptive, shrewd, manly, respectable, a good speller, and a lot of other superb things which the grinder is the opposite of.

To top it off the kid changed his cell location from next to mine and he changed his job placement. That's a bit much! It took me months to get him a job placement in the same shop as me. It was touch and go for awhile too be-



cause the bulls thought I was just trying to get close to the kid. I had to lay on all kinds of crap about how he really truly most certainly and purely wanted to be a journeyman mailbag mender.

Don't make no mistake, you cravers for my knowledge of all things important, I wasn't into any heavy stuff with the kid. You can't count the odd chubbins because everybody knows you have to sometimes touch another person's skin just to know your own is still warm. The kid was somebody for me to walk the yard with. I'm old, and tho I don't put down being old, it's good to have someone who can be your youth; you can be sort of

young and old at the same time. Street people have sons don't they?

No sense getting maudlin. I think I'll leave you dudes with something to wander in your heads besides sympathy for the kid's new old man. I ain't finishing off with my wisdom ... but something paraphrased from the mouths of the Fabulous Furry Freak Brothers: better to be poor and have dope than to be rich and have no dope.

On second thought, I will lay a little genuine Slow George lore on you; old guys should remember that the kid they keep may be their own.

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1974

# western voice

'Criminal' is a scare word

**A worker is a worker,**

**even in a stone house**

by Mordecai Briemberg

"To put a man in a stone house and say you will work for me for 65 cents a day for five years; to say your wife can come visit—even if she's 500 miles away in Prince George and doesn't see the money; and if she does visit you can't sleep with her or play with your children. To

leave prison with only \$1 for every week you've worked, without training, with skills that are obsolete, with a broken family, and then to be told the reason we are letting you out is because we have rehabilitated you. Now be a good citizen! What that teaches a man real good is ...

don't get caught next time? That's the nitty-gritty of the Canadian penitentiary system, in the view of Vancouver lawyer Michael Bolton. Acting on behalf of inmates in the B.C. Penitentiary, Bolton is part of a drive to unionize prisoners.



Convicts want a union. Just like anyone else, they are fed up with being used as cheap labour. For several months now B.C. Penitentiary inmates have been patiently recruiting support. They claim they have it from the overwhelming number of their fellow prisoners, 380 of the approximately 500 in the institution.

Like other workers, convicts want a union for very simple, practical, obvious reasons: to improve their working conditions and establish their right to bargain collectively for wages and benefits.

"Prisoners are workers," explains Michael Bolton, their lawyer. Just because they're isolated you don't take away every vestige of their humanity."

In theory prisoners don't have to work in prison. "Legally, there is no more forced labour for inmates," according to Bolton, "but there is pressure to work. Inmates say they sometimes are sent to the hole if they refuse."

In theory again, prisoners have some choice in the work they do. They are supposed to state three preferences and then the prison officials are to choose one as the work assignment. "But the prisoners tell me that it's just as likely if they put down kitchen, laundry and woodwork as their three choices, the prison will assign them to work in the garage."

The workday of a prisoner begins at 8 and goes to 10:30 in the morning. Then they're locked up in their cells. From 1 to 3:30 in the afternoon they go back to work. Again they are locked up in their cells until 5:30 when they are allowed some outside exercise. In summer this can last until 8:30.

There are four recreation officers on the B.C. Pen staff, but they have been discouraged from setting up programs. For example, when the B.C. Lacrosse Association tried to donate lacrosse sticks for a recreation program, the prison officials nixed the gift. At the same time prisoners can watch TV only if it rains!

For their five hours of work a day, the prisoners are paid a grand total of 65 cents. Figure it out. That's 13 cents an hour! That's "grade one" pay, which is what approximately 65 percent of the inmates get. Another 15 percent earn grade two pay, all of 70 cents a day. There are four pay grades altogether and the range from top to bottom is 25 cents a day. The grade is not determined by the kind of work that is done, but by the whim of the custody staff.

You hardly can call this pay. But one thing it has in common with every worker's check is deductions. One dollar, a day and a half's pay, is taken off each week and put aside. You collect it only when you leave prison, when it isn't even worth a dollar. What's left over from a week's wages can be spent in the canteen, on things like cigarettes, chocolate bars, stamps.

It's not as though the prisoners work breaking rocks that aren't worth any more after all their sweat.

The government gets its mail bags from the labour of the men working in the canvas shop. Last year in the wood products shop prisoner-workers built close to ten boats. These were sold by the employer—the Canadian Penitentiary Service—to the staff at the penitentiary. It's all part of an established pattern one prisoner called a "staff revenue program," where some staff can cream the benefit of the prisoners' labour. Prisoners who work in the shoe shop repair staff shoes, including ones they wear around home ... but they can't repair inmate shoes.

In the upholstery shop chesterfields and chairs are recovered and then sold for very small amounts to the staff. The prisoners gave a recent example of a rebuilt chesterfield worth about \$700, which was sold for \$65. Staff also get painting done at the paint shop.

The prisoners want to do painting jobs for old age pensioners and low-income

families, but are prevented from doing this. They also propose that they could turn the kitchens where some of them work into a non-profit co-op so low-income families, pensioners, staff, friends and relatives of the inmates could buy things like bread cheaply.

A major grievance of the prisoner-workers is the absence of any recognized and useful apprenticeship program. Barbering is the only course inmates receive full credit for, and we all know what a surplus of barbers there is. About three inmates are in the barbering course.

Prisoners do electric wiring in the penitentiary, but there is no approved electrician apprenticeship course. There is a welding course, but very little practical experience is provided. There is no credit given for the carpentry apprenticeship course. And it is rumoured that the man who supervises the upholstery shop has trained only one man in 19 years.

Bolton has been approaching officers and members of B.C. trade unions to try and get their support for the prisoners' struggle for better living and working conditions. In particular he wants the trade unions to work "to ensure that the training programs going on inside the penitentiary will be transferable to apprenticeship programs outside the institutions."

On the legal front Bolton has written the Public Service Commission demanding they fulfill their legal responsibility under provisions of the Public Service Staff Relations Act to classify prisoners as a specific occupational group. If the Public Service Commission doesn't voluntarily classify prisoners then legal proceedings can be initiated to compel them to fulfill their responsibilities. Inmates then could form an employee organization which would apply for certification as a legal bargaining agent and negotiate wages and working conditions.



Bolton and the prisoners in the B.C. Pen are not alone. They are developing links with other lawyers and prisoners across Canada. Nor is the movement for prisoners unions unique to this country. Far from it.

The first union was founded in Sweden in 1967. It had a two-tier structure consisting of

an outside association of ex-convicts and supporters to raise funds and mobilize opinion for the prisoners' cause and an inside organization structured on trade union principles, with shop stewards to handle grievances and so forth. The movement spread through Europe, Britain and the U.S.

One of the B.C. Pen inmates observed that all the prisoner unions had several objectives in common: union wages for prison work, so prisoners at least can support their families

and get them off the welfare rolls; conjugal visiting rights; unrestricted access to legal counsel; access to the press; uncensored mail; means to institute legal proceedings against prison officers where it is warranted. "Most of the union demands are part of the United Nations Charter of Human Rights, which lists 14 specific rights of prisoners."

In June 1973 this same prisoner wrote that "the impact (of prisoner unions) has yet to be felt in Canada." One year later that is no longer true.

# To Sir with Love

Mr. ... (Fill in your own Blank) .., MY PAROLE OFFICER

One day about two years and one day ago, I met my parole officer. I don't know about yours, but mine is a very strange parole officer.

This guy gets up very early every morning and turns around three times, growls in the mirror three times, enters the door to his bathroom three times, and always urinates three times, always on the same spot, on the EAST side of his toilet, on the EAST side of his house, on the EAST side of the street, located on the EAST side of town.

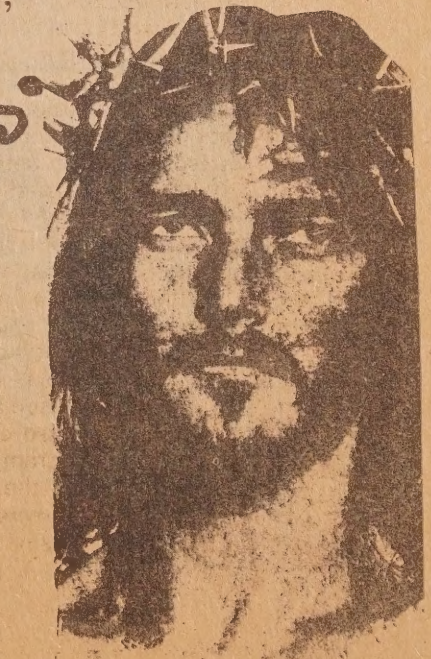
Yesterday, my parole officer took his holidays, and you know, it's been two days since the sun came up.

Maybe the impression that some parole officers give, that they are really the sons of God who have come to save our miserable "criminal" souls, is TRUE.

Now, my friends, if you want know who the sons of God really are .....

ASK A JUDGE .....

Lord,  
what a  
bummer!





**LOOK OUT SINNER!  
HERE COMES...**

# PROJUNIOR

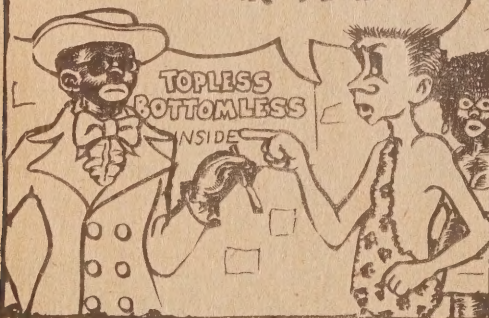
I, PROJUNIOR, HAVE COME TO THIS SECTION OF TOWN IN MY NEVER ENDING BATTLE AGAINST THOSE WHO WOULD EXPLOIT THE MASSES...



IN THE PAST I HAVE FOUGHT THE ESTABLISHMENT FOR ITS ABUSE OF THE WORKING CLASS AND MINORITY GROUPS. NOW I HAVE HEARD OF ANOTHER ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE, ONE WHO USES VIOLENCE AND INTIMIDATION TO FORCE INNOCENT YOUNG GIRLS INTO PROSTITUTION!...



YES, I HAVE COME TO DESTROY YOU! YOU, WHO CRUELLY FORCES WOMEN TO PEDdle THEIR OWN FLESH, TAKING THE MONEY FOR YOURSELF! I HAVE COME TO KILL YOU.... **MR. PIMP!**





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